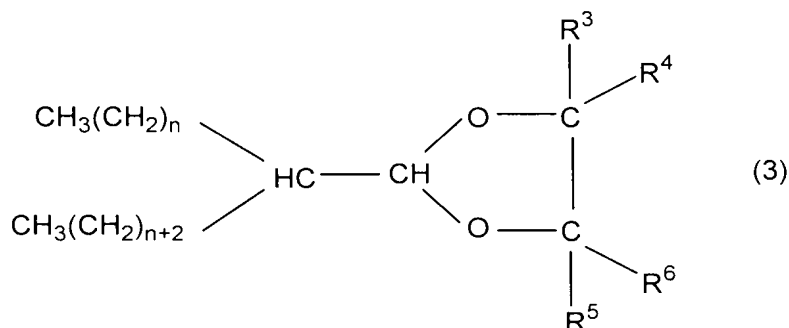


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

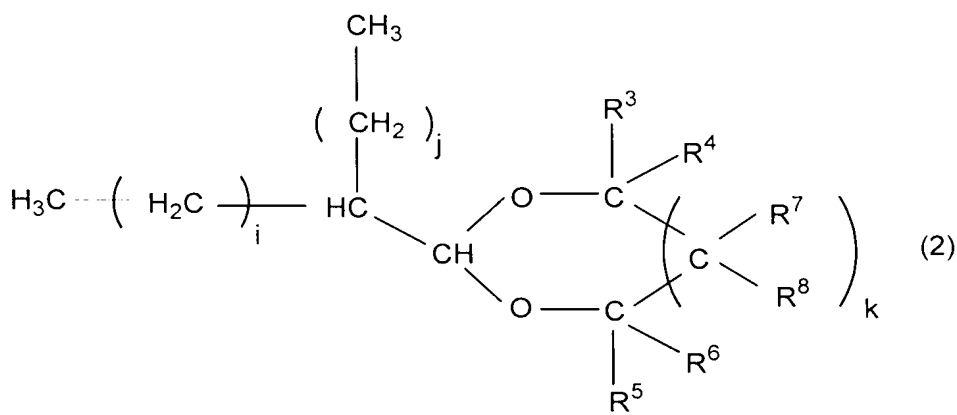
Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An alkylacetal compound ~~according to Claim 4,~~
~~which is having a structure~~ represented by formula (3):



wherein R^3 to R^6 ~~are as defined in formula (2)~~ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group, and n represents an integer in a range of 7 to 15.

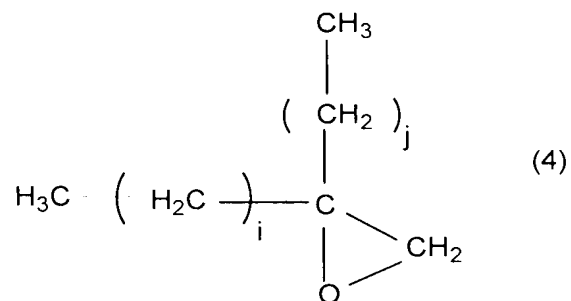
Claims 6-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound ~~according to Claim 3~~ having a structure represented by formula (2):



wherein R^3 to R^8 each independently represent hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group, k represents 0 or 1, and i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 10 to 70, ~~said process comprising wherein the alkylacetal compound~~

~~represented by formula (2) is produced by~~ reacting an alcohol with an epoxide represented by formula (4):



wherein i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 10 to 70.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled).